

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic valve comprising:

a radially expandable structural frame defining a longitudinal axis, including an anchor structure having first and second open ends, a connecting member having first and second ends, the first end of the connecting member being ~~rigidly~~ directly attached to the second end of the anchor structure, and a cantilever valve strut having first and second ends, the first end of the cantilever valve strut being cooperatively associated with the second end of the connecting member and the second end of the cantilever valve strut being free to deflect in at least a radial direction from the longitudinal axis; and

a biocompatible membrane assembly having a substantially tubular configuration about the longitudinal axis, with a first open and a second closed end, the first end of the membrane assembly being attached along the second end of the cantilever valve strut.

2. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the anchor structure is formed from a lattice of interconnected elements, and has a substantially cylindrical configuration about the longitudinal axis.

3. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the structural frame comprises a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, tantalum, platinum alloys, niobium alloy, cobalt alloy, and nickel-titanium alloy.
4. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the structural frame comprises a polymer.
5. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the biocompatible membrane assembly is formed from a flexible membrane-like material.
6. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 5 wherein the membrane-like material is a biological material.
7. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 6 wherein the biological material is a vein.
8. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 5 wherein the membrane-like material is a synthetic material.
9. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 8 wherein the synthetic material is an elastomeric polymer.

10. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 8 wherein the synthetic material is a bioabsorbable material.
11. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 8 wherein the synthetic material further comprises a reinforcement fiber.
12. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the structural frame is coated with an agent.
13. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 12 wherein the agent coating contains a therapeutic agent.
14. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 12 wherein the agent coating contains a pharmaceutical agent.
15. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 12 wherein the agent coating comprises an agent-eluting layer.
16. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the membrane assembly is coated with an agent.

17. (Previously Presented) The prosthetic valve of claim 16 wherein the agent coating contains a therapeutic agent.
18. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 17 wherein the agent coating contains a pharmaceutical agent.
19. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 17 wherein the agent coating comprising an agent-eluting layer.
20. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the membrane assembly is impregnated with a therapeutic agent.
21. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the membrane assembly is impregnated with a pharmaceutical agent.
22. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the connecting member is a substantially straight member oriented in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.
23. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the connecting member has a substantially helical shape about the longitudinal axis.

24. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the cantilever valve strut is a substantially straight member oriented in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

25. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the cantilever valve strut has a substantially helical shape about the longitudinal axis.

26. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the cantilever valve strut has a substantially sinusoidal shape oriented in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

27. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the tubular biocompatible membrane has a substantially constant diameter from the first to the second end.

28. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the tubular biocompatible membrane has a substantially conical shape.

29. (Original) The prosthetic valve of claim 1 wherein the structural frame further comprising a proximal collar attached to the second end of the connecting member and first end of the cantilever valve strut.

30. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic valve of claim 29 wherein the structural frame further comprises a centering leg cooperatively associated with the proximal collar.

31. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic valve of claim 29 wherein the structural frame further comprises a proximal anchor cooperatively associated with the proximal collar.

32. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic valve comprising:

a radially expandable anchor structure formed from a lattice of interconnected elements, and having a substantially cylindrical configuration with a first and a second open end and a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal direction extending there between;

a connecting member having a first and a second end, the first end of the connecting member being ~~rigidly~~ directly attached to the second end of the anchor;

a cantilever valve strut having a first and a second end, the first end of the cantilever valve strut being cooperatively associated with the second end of the connecting member, and the second end of the cantilever valve strut being free to deflect in at least a radial direction from the longitudinal axis; and

a biocompatible membrane assembly having a substantially tubular configuration with a first open and a second closed end, the first end of the membrane assembly being attached to the cantilever valve strut along the second end of the cantilever valve strut.

33. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic valve comprising:

a radially expandable anchor structure formed from a lattice of interconnected elements, and having a substantially cylindrical configuration with a first and a second open end and a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal direction extending there between;

a collar located proximal to the radially expandable anchor;

a connecting member having a first and a second end, the first end of the connecting member being ~~rigidly~~ directly attached to the second end of the anchor and the second end of the connecting member being ~~rigidly~~ directly attached to the proximal collar;

a cantilever valve strut having a first and a second end, the first end of the cantilever valve strut being attached to the proximal collar and the second end of the cantilever valve strut being free to deflect in at least a radial direction from the longitudinal axis, the cantilever valve strut extending in a distal direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis ; and

a biocompatible membrane assembly having a substantially tubular configuration with a first open and a second closed end, the first end of the membrane assembly being attached to the cantilever valve strut along the second end of the cantilever valve strut.